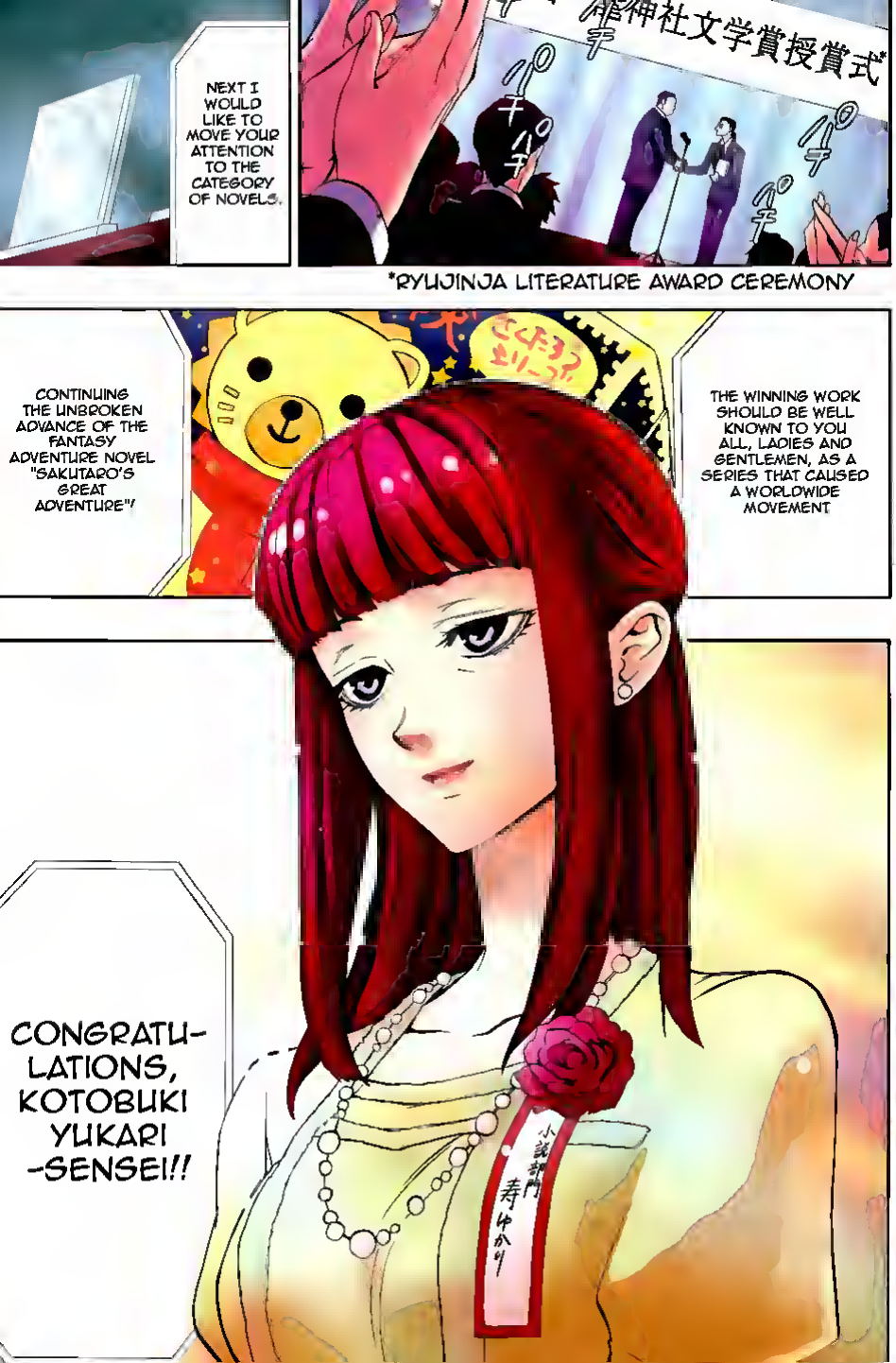
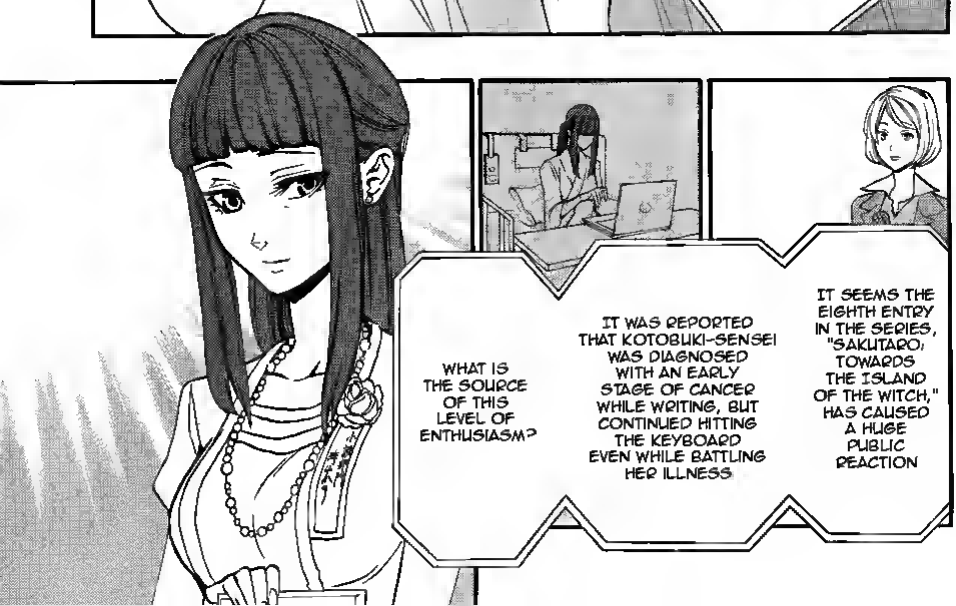

NEXT I WOULD LIKE TO MOVE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE CATEGORY OF NOVELS.
龍神社文学賞授賞式
パチパチ
CONTINUING THE UNBROKEN ADVANCE OF THE FANTASY ADVENTURE NOVEL "SAKUTARO'S GREAT ADVENTURE"!
THE WINNING WORK SHOULD BE WELL KNOWN TO YOU ALL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS A SERIES THAT CAUSED A WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT
CONGRATU-LATIONS, KOTOBUKI YUKARI -SENSEI!!
小説部門
寿ゆかり

*RYUJINJA LITERATURE AWARD CEREMONY

うみねこのなく頃に散
07th Expansion presents Welcome to Rokkenjima,
"WHEN THEY CRY"
Episode8:Twilight of the Golden witch
原作・監修 竜騎士07
作画 夏海ケイ
LAST CHAPTER: GOLDEN LAND

YOU MIGHT ALL BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE KEY-PHRASE "I'LL BECOME THE KING OF THE BEASTS" HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE AWARD OF WORD OF THE YEAR.
IN THE SERIES "SAKUTARO'S GREAT ADVENTURE" WE FOLLOW THE JOURNEY OF A COWARDLY, VEGETARIAN LION NAMED SAKUTARO, AS HE MEETS COMPANIONS, AND GROWS WHILE WORKING HARD IN HIS SEARCH FOR "THAT ONE TREASURED FRAGMENT", IN A THRILLING FANTASY ADVENTURE.

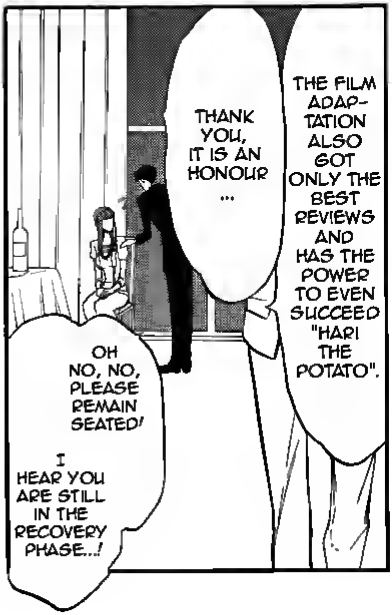
I AM VERY GRATEFUL AND CONSIDER THIS AWARD A HIGH HONOUR.
ALONG WITH THE START OF ITS FOREIGN LANGUAGE RELEASE LAST YEAR, IT EXPERIENCED AS A BREAKTHROUGH AS A NOVEL READ BY CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE, AND RECEIVED HIGH PRAISE WHICH LEAD TO TODAY'S AWARD.


WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THIS LEVEL OF ENTHUSIASM?
IT WAS REPORTED THAT KOTOBUKI-SENSEI WAS DIAGNOSED WITH AN EARLY STAGE OF CANCER WHILE WRITING, BUT CONTINUED HITTING THE KEYBOARD EVEN WHILE BATTLING HER ILLNESS.
IT SEEMS THE EIGHTH ENTRY IN THE SERIES, "SAKUTARO; TOWARDS THE ISLAND OF THE WITCH," HAS CAUSED A HUGE PUBLIC REACTION.

I AM NOT FINISHED PASSING ON WHAT I HAVE YET TO COMMUNICATE...
I AM NOT YET DONE WITH TELLING THE IMPORTANT LESSONS THAT I WAS GIFTED WITH...
WITH EVERY ONE NEW WORK THAT I WRITE
IF IT MANAGES TO MAKE JUST ONE MORE CHILD UNDERSTAND THE METHOD OF FINDING HAPPINESS
I WANT TO USE UP MY LIFE TO WRITE THAT ONE WORK OR EVEN ONE PAGE MORE.

KOTOBUKI -SENSEI!
I HONESTLY WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ABOUT THE AWARD!

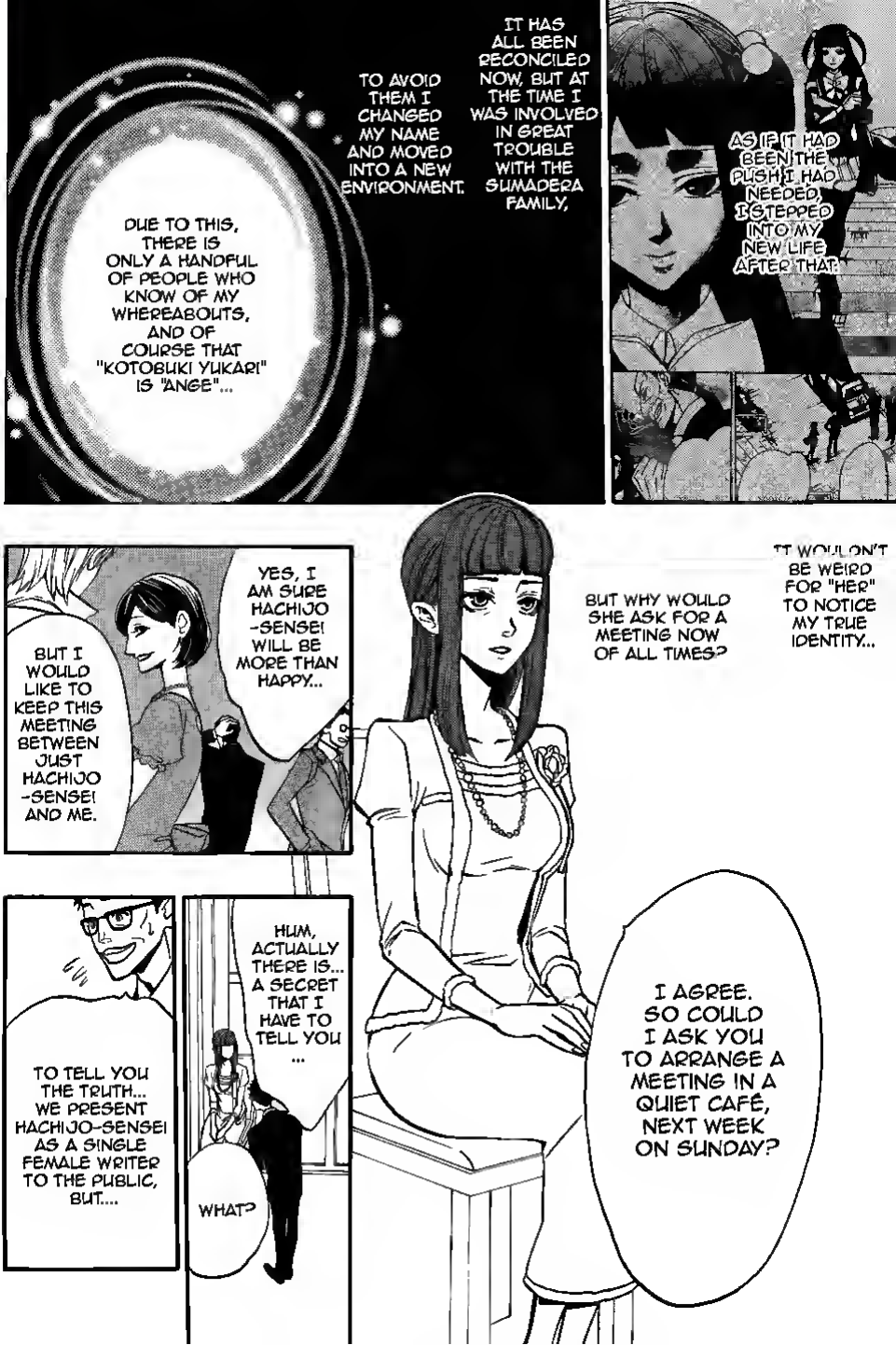
I ACTUALLY HAVE SOMETHING VERY SUDDEN TO TELL YOU...
I AM SORRY, MY NAME IS MARUMARU, HEAD OF THE EDITING DEPARTMENT OF MARUMARU PUBLISHING.


THE FILM ADAP-TATION ALSO GOT ONLY THE BEST REVIEWS AND HAS THE POWER TO EVEN SUCCEED "HARI THE POTATO".
THANK YOU, IT IS AN HONOUR ...
OH NO, NO, PLEASE REMAIN SEATED!
I HEAR YOU ARE STILL IN THE RECOVERY PHASE...!

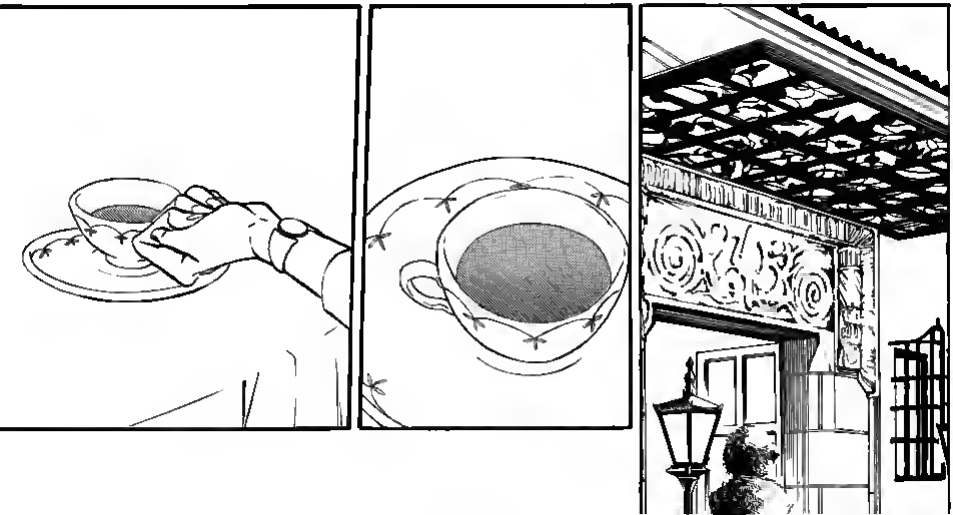
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH HACHIJO TOHYA-SENSEI, THE MYSTERY AUTHOR?

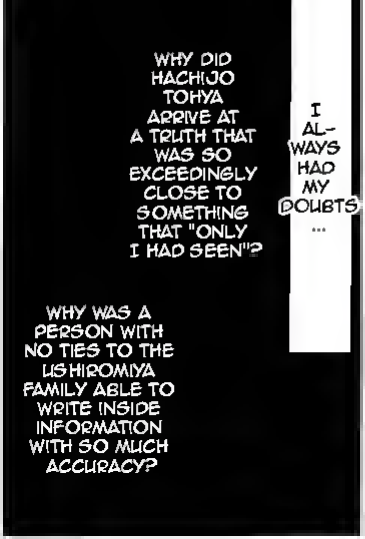
YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH HACHIJO -SENSEI? MIGHT YOU EVEN HAVE MET AT SOME POINT?
YES ...
A LONG TIME AGO... JUST ONCE...
HACHIJO... TOHYA...
NO WAY
EVA OBA-SAN'S ...
DIARY?
YOU SEE, HACHIJO TOHYA -SENSEI ACTUALLY INQUIRED ABOUT YOU.
THERE IS HIGH INTEREST IN A PRIVATE MEETING.

WITH... ME?
YES.
NOT A PHONE CONVERSATION, BUT AN ACTUAL PRIVATE MEETING FACE TO FACE ...
IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO AGREE, I WILL TAKE IT UPON MYSELF TO ARRANGE THE SETTING...
OF COURSE I ASSURE YOU, THIS IS NOT A WORK-RELATED CONVERSATION.
I HAVE NOT ENCOUNTERED HACHIJO TOHYA ...
AFTER THAT ONE CERTAIN INCIDENT.
AT THAT TIME I ACTUALLY LOATHED HER, WHO WAS THE LEADING FORCE BEHIND THE ROKKENJIMA MYSTERY AS A FORGERY AUTHOR, BUT NOW I AM ACTUALLY QUITE GRATEFUL TO HER.
DUE TO THE "OPENING OF USHIROMIYA EVA'S DIARY EVENT" THAT SHE HEADED AND THEN CANCELLED, SHE RETURNED AN AMOUNT OF CRITICAL THINKING TO TOYING AROUND WITH A TRAGEDY, AND THE ROKKENJIMA MYSTERY DREW TO AN END.

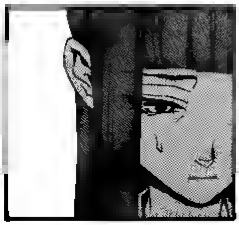

DUE TO THIS, THERE IS ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW OF MY WHEREABOUTS, AND OF COURSE THAT "KOTOBUKI YUKARI" IS "ANGE"...
TO AVOID THEM I CHANGED MY NAME AND MOVED INTO A NEW ENVIRONMENT.
IT HAS ALL BEEN RECONCILED NOW, BUT AT THE TIME I WAS INVOLVED IN GREAT TROUBLE WITH THE SUMADERA FAMILY,
AS IF IT HAD BEEN THE PLISHI I HAD NEEDED, I STEPPED INTO MY NEW LIFE AFTER THAT.
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THIS MEETING BETWEEN JUST HACHIJO -SENSEI AND ME.
YES, I AM SURE HACHIJO -SENSEI WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY...
BUT WHY WOULD SHE ASK FOR A MEETING NOW OF ALL TIMES?
IT WOULDN'T BE WEIRD FOR "HER" TO NOTICE MY TRUE IDENTITY...
I AGREE. SO COULD I ASK YOU TO ARRANGE A MEETING IN A QUIET CAFÉ, NEXT WEEK ON SUNDAY?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH... WE PRESENT HACHIJO-SENSEI AS A SINGLE FEMALE WRITER TO THE PUBLIC, BUT....
HUM, ACTUALLY THERE IS... A SECRET THAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU ...
WHAT?

ACTUALLY SHE IS WORKING WITH ONE MORE MALE AUTHOR...
AND THEY BOTH ASKED TO MEET WITH YOU ...




WHY DID HACHIJO TOHYA ARRIVE AT A TRUTH THAT WAS SO EXCEEDINGLY CLOSE TO SOMETHING THAT "ONLY I HAD SEEN"?
I AL-WAYS HAD MY DOUBTS ...
WHY WAS A PERSON WITH NO TIES TO THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY ABLE TO WRITE INSIDE INFORMATION WITH SO MUCH ACCURACY?

ACTUALLY SHE IS WORKING WITH ONE MORE MALE AUTHOR ix



PEOPLE WHO FIT THIS DESCRIPTION ARE SO VERY LIMITED ...
...NO.

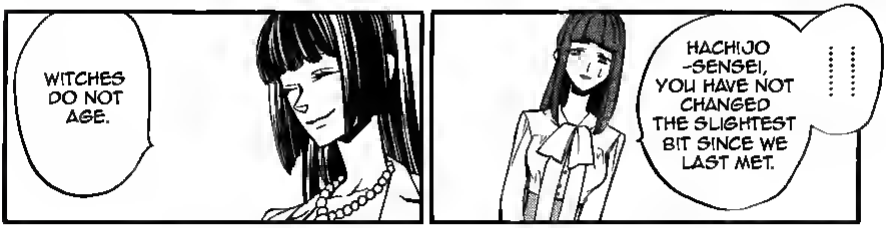
HE, WHO HAD DETECTIVE NOVELS STACKED IN HIS ROOM, WOULD HAVE THE SKILL TO SOLVE THAT MYSTERY.

A PERSON WHO KNOWS THAT "I" HAD PLAYED WITH A STUFFED LION CALLED SAKUTARO, TOGETHER WITH MARIA ONEE-CHAN ...
COULD IT BE THAT WHEN "SAKUTARO'S GREAT ADVENTURE" WAS SHOWERED WITH SO MUCH PRAISE THIS YEAR, THE NAME "KOTOBUKI YUKARI" REACHED HIS EARS?

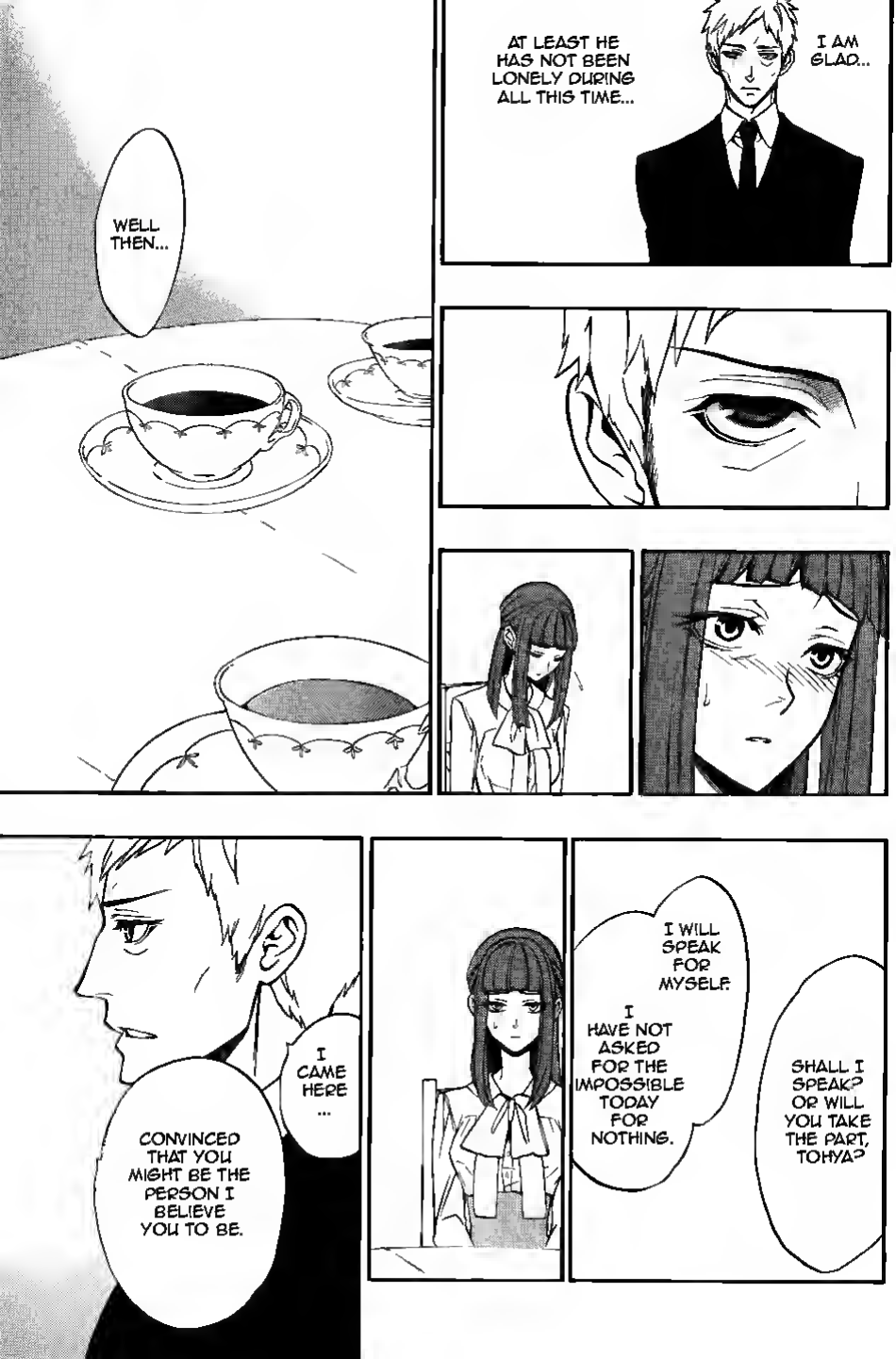
I CAN ONLY THINK ...
OF HIM ALONE ...

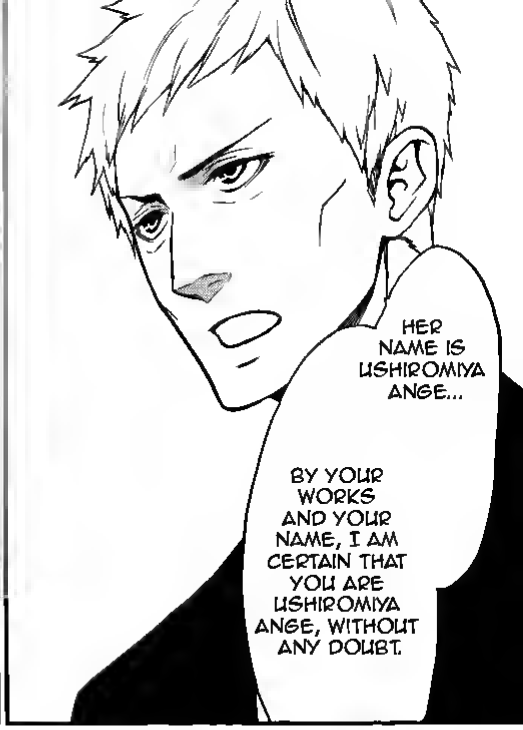
ARE YOU KOTOBUKI YUKARI -SENSEI?
YES... I AM KOTOBUKI YUKARI...!

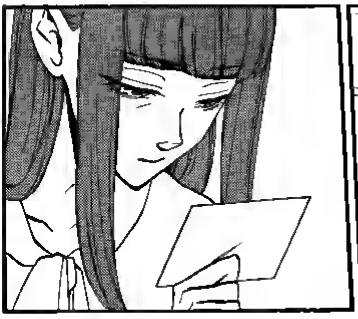
IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE. LAST WE MET I WENT BY THE NAME HACHIJO TOHYA.
I AM HACHIJO IKUKO.
I AM MOSTLY IN CHARGE OF THE WRITING.
AND THIS IS TOHYA.
HE IS MOSTLY IN CHARGE OF THE DRAFTS.

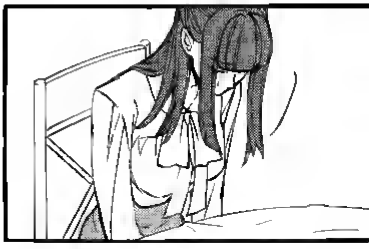

WITCHES DO NOT AGE.
HACHIJO -SENSEI, YOU HAVE NOT CHANGED THE SLIGHTEST BIT SINCE WE LAST MET.
.....

QUITE TRUE... THINKING ABOUT IT, IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME...
WE ARE NOT MARRIED, BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR QUITE A LONG TIME.
I AM SORRY TO PRY... BUT ARE YOU TWO MARRIED?
WELL ...


AT LEAST HE HAS NOT BEEN LONELY DURING ALL THIS TIME...
I AM GLAD...
WELL THEN...
SHALL I SPEAK? OR WILL YOU TAKE THE PART, TOHYA?
I WILL SPEAK FOR MYSELF.
I HAVE NOT ASKED FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE TODAY FOR NOTHING.
I CAME HERE ...
CONVINCED THAT YOU MIGHT BE THE PERSON I BELIEVE YOU TO BE.

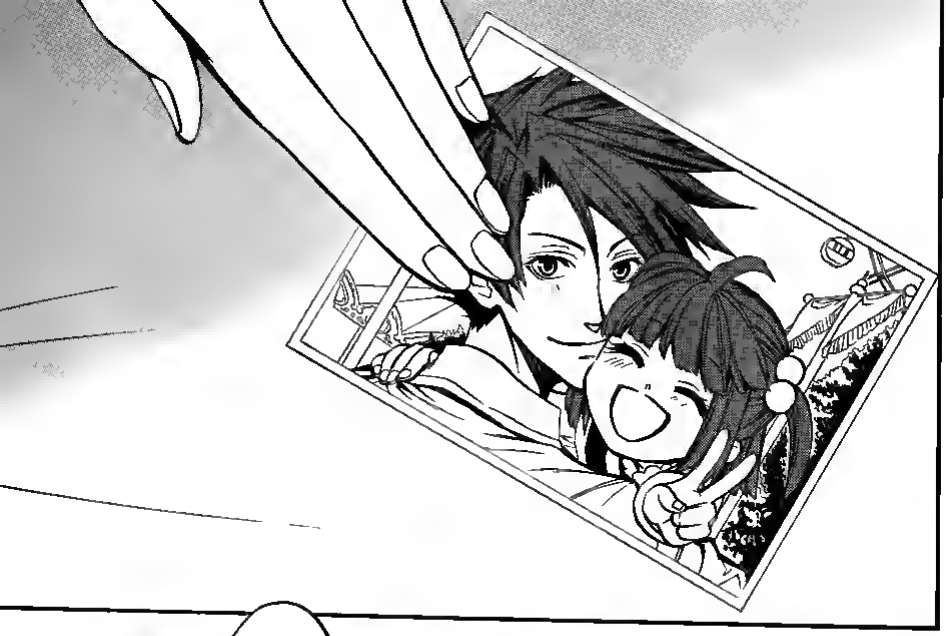




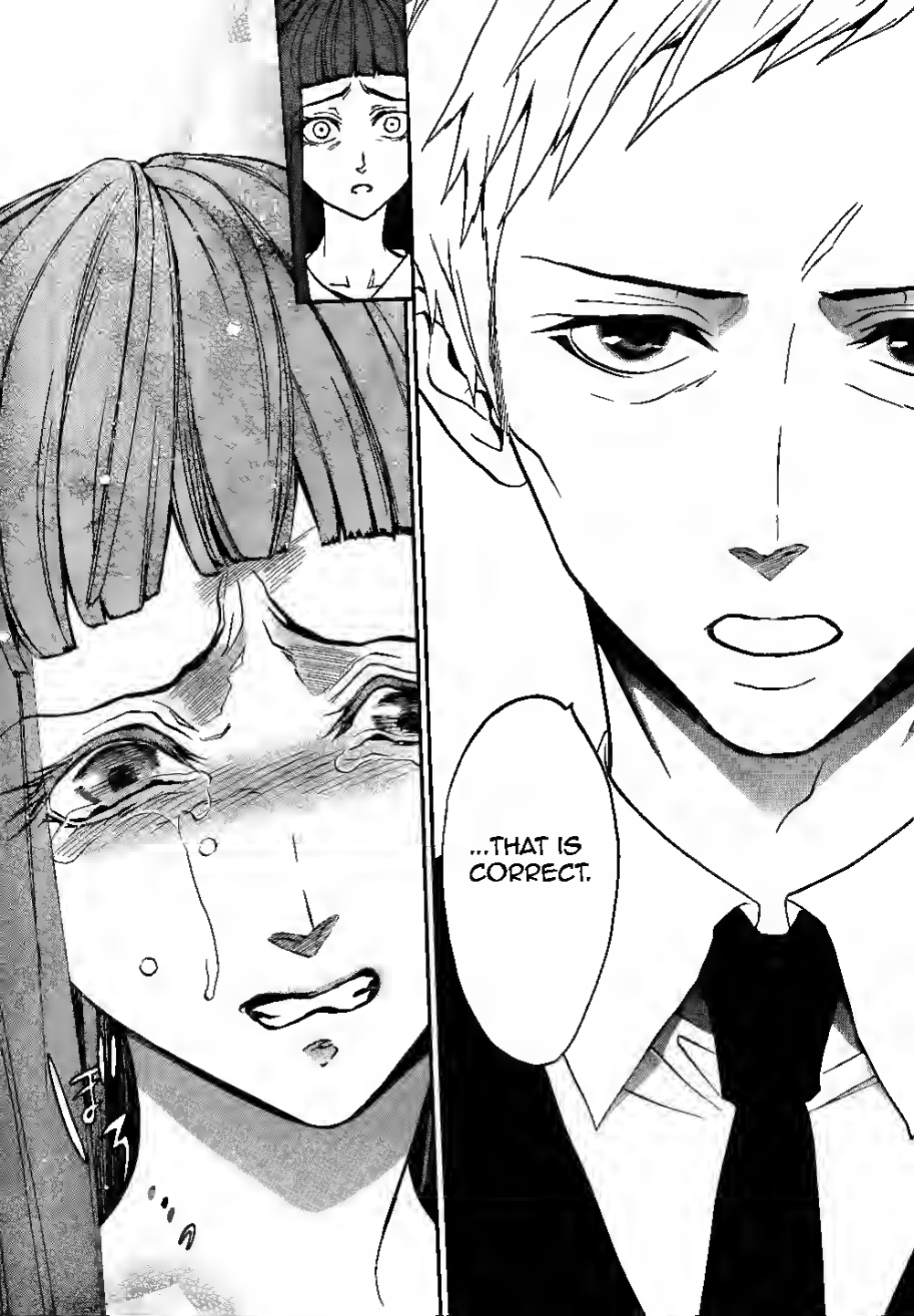


WHY ARE WE BEHAVING SO DISTANT?

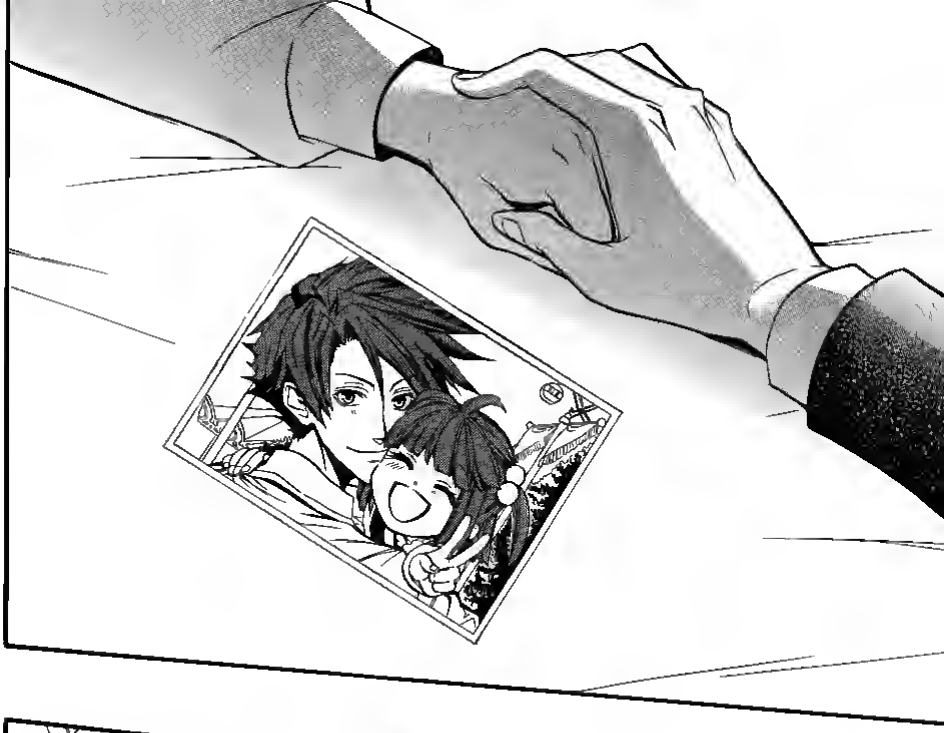
AREN'T WE...

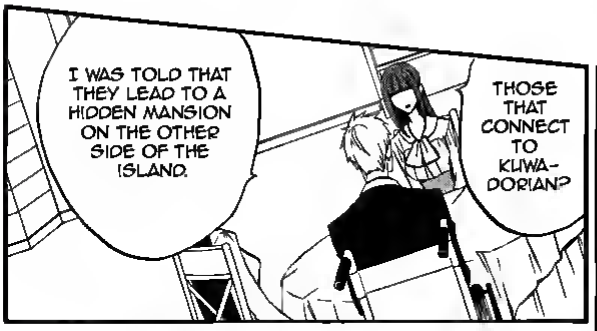


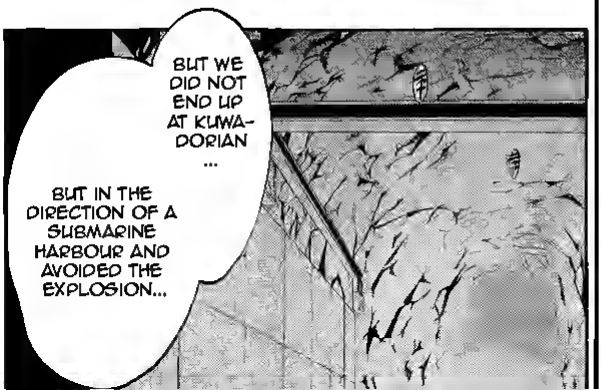
YOUR REAL NAME IS ...
USHIROMIYA BATTLER... -SAN, RIGHT?
ONII-CHAN...


...THAT IS CORRECT.

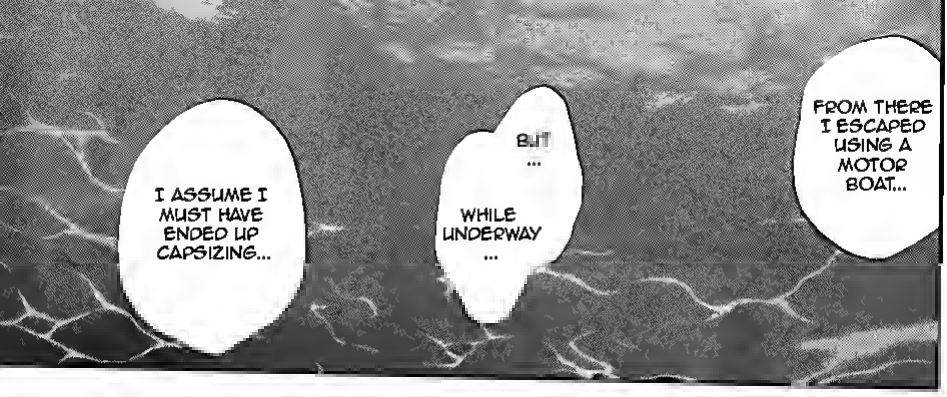
YOU ...
NGH
.....
YOU SURVIVED ...
I AM SORRY.. TO BEHAVE... SO IMPROPERLY ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
YOU HAVE SPENT DECADES ALL ALONE, BELIEVING IN THE RETURN OF YOUR FAMILY...
THANK YOU... FOR COMING BACK ALIVE ...
BATTLER... ONII-CHAN ...







ON THAT DAY, WE FLED THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND TUNNELS...


I ASSUME I MUST HAVE ENDED UP CAPSIZING...
BUT ...
WHILE UNDERWAY ...
FROM THERE I ESCAPED USING A MOTOR BOAT...

AFTER THE EVENT HE SEEMS TO HAVE DRIFTED ASHORE SOMEWHERE AND WAS THEN INVOLVED IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHILE DRIFTING AROUND... I PICKED HIM UP WHEN I FOUND HIM COLLAPSED ON THE ROAD.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
FOR A WHILE HE HAD EVEN FORGOTTEN THAT HE IS USHIROMIYA BATTLER IN THE FIRST PLACE...?
AS-SUME ?
I APOL-OGIZE.
TOHYA HAS SUFFERED FROM MEMORY IMPAIRMENT AND HIS RECOLLECTION OF THE EVENTS BEFORE AND AFTER FALLING INTO THE OCEAN IS HAZY.
HAD IKUKO-SAN NOTICED ME JUST A MOMENT LATER, I MIGHT HAVE NEVER AGAIN OPENED MY EYES TO THIS WORLD...

I STILL THINK YOU DOUBTED ME QUITE A WHILE, IF I HADN'T BEEN THE ONE WHO HAD HIT YOU.
AAH
COME ON, I APOLOGIZED FOR THAT...
THIS IS A SUMMARY I CAN AGREE WITH.
BUT THEN WHY...
MY BROTHER SUFFERED MEMORY LOSS, EITHER WHEN HE FELL INTO THE OCEAN, OR DUE TO A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.
AS TIME PASSED, HIS MEMORY RETURNED
AND BASED ON HIS MEMORY, HACHIJO TOHYA BEGAN PUBLISHING FORGERIES UNDER THE NAME OF ITOUIKUKURO ...
KOTOBUKI -SENSEI.
WHEN WE MEET THAT TIME BEFORE, I HAD ALREADY LONG FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS REAL NAME.
THAT IS WHY I BELIEVED I SHOULD MAKE THE TWO OF YOU MEET FACE TO FACE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU MEET WITH ME BACK THEN ...??
IF YOU KNEW THAT I WAS YOUR LITTLE SISTER... WHY...
THAT'S TRUE!
AT THAT TIME YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY REMEMBERED ME AS WELL.
I RE-FUSED ...
BECAUSE I DID NOT WANT TO MEET YOU.
I REFUSED TO DO SO.

WHY THEN... WHY?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT YOUR LITTLE SISTER WAS LIVING ALL ALONE WHILE BEING CRUSHED BY LONELINESS!
WHY?
WH...
I DEEPLY REGRET DOING THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS TO YOU...
THAT IS WHY I KEPT SEARCHING FOR YOU EVER SINCE...
WE SHOULD HAVE MET SO MUCH EARLIER...
FOR YOUR SAKE AND FOR MINE...
REGRET ?!
HAVE YOU EVEN ONCE CONSIDERED MY FEELINGS IN THIS?!
WHAT EMOTIONS I HAD TO GO THROUGH DURING THOSE MANY DECADES...!
I REGRET DOING SO NOW...

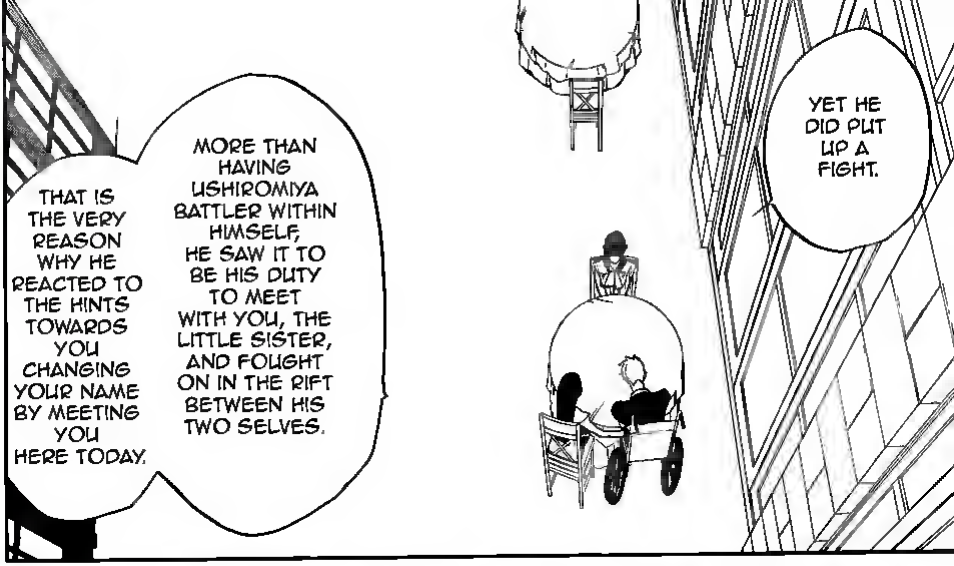
AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, HE SUFFERS FROM BRAIN IMPAIRME... NO, FROM BRAIN DAMAGE.
IT'S THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE ACCIDENT.
KOTO-BUKI-SENSEI
THEN WHY...
THE MEM-ORY RE-TURN-ED.
THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE DAMAGE DID NOT HEAL.
BUT ...
BUT HIS MEMORY CAME BACK, DIDN'T IT?!
BUT ...
I POSSESS THE MEMORY OF USHIROMIYA BATTLER ...
?

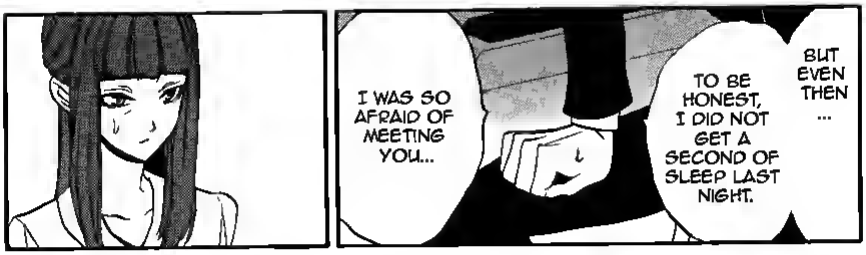
I HAVE A BRAIN DISEASE ...
THAT MAKES ME UNABLE TO THINK OF IT AS MY OWN.
... YES.
UNABLE TO THINK OF IT AS YOUR OWN...?
MY MEMORY OF THE EVENTS BEFORE AND AFTER MY ESCAPE FROM THE ISLAND ARE STILL HAZY...
BUT APART FROM THAT ALMOST EVERYTHING HAS COME BACK TO ME...

FOR EXAMPLE THE PINK HAIR -ACCES- SORIES THAT YOU TREASURED SO MUCH.
I REMEMBER THAT I GOT THEM FROM THE GAME CORNER OF AN AMUSEMENT PARK.
YES ...
I TREAS- URE THEM TO THIS DAY...
THERE IS MORE
THE FACT THAT YOU HATED SEAWEED AND HOW TROUBLED YOUR MOTHER WAS OVER IT.
HOW YOU TRIED TO TRICK HER BY SHOVELLING IT ALL ON MY PLATE...
BUT IF YOU REMEMBER SO MUCH, HOW CAN YOU NOT ACCEPT IT AS YOUR OWN...
THAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE TO MY BRAIN...
I WENT TO SO MANY HOSPITALS, BUT THERE IS NOTHING THAT COULD BE DONE...

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS...
BUT THE FEELING OF AN UNKNOWN MAN'S MEMORY ONE DAY SUDDENLY FLOODING YOUR HEAD IS INCREDIBLY TERRIFYING...
I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I WERE TO GO TO SLEEP TODAY THAT I WOULD NEVER AWAKEN AGAIN AND FROM THE NEXT DAY ONWARDS, ANOTHER MAN WOULD BE LIVING HIS LIFE USING MY BODY...
THIS FEAR KEPT TORMENTING ME...
THEY WERE HARSH AND HORRIFYING DAYS...
IT WAS AS IF MY HEAD WERE TO BE ERODED FROM THE INSIDE BY THIS MAN I DIDN'T KNOW...
HE TRIED TO CONVINCE HIMSELF THAT THEY WERE HIS REAL MEMORIES MANY TIMES
HE TOLD HIMSELF THAT HE WAS USHIROMIYA BATTLER OVER AND OVER AGAIN
BUT IT WAS...
ALL USELESS ...

I AM HACHIJO TOHYA.
NO MATTER HOW MANY MEMORIES OF USHIROMIYA BATTLER'S GUSH FORTH FROM MY HEAD THEY REMAIN A STRANGER'S MEMORIES...
I WAS...
INCAPABLE TO ACCEPT USHIROMIYA BATTLER INTO MYSELF...
HE IS STUCK BETWEEN BEING HIMSELF AND BEING THIS OTHER SELF, SO ONE DAY, LIKE A SPASTIC FIT...
.....
LUCKILY HE GOT AWAY WITH HIS LIFE, BUT DUE TO THE AFTER-EFFECTS HE WILL HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN A WHEELCHAIR...
.....
THAT IS...
I CAN'T...


YET HE DID PUT UP A FIGHT.
MORE THAN HAVING USHIROMIYA BATTLER WITHIN HIMSELF, HE SAW IT TO BE HIS DUTY TO MEET WITH YOU, THE LITTLE SISTER, AND FOUGHT ON IN THE RIFT BETWEEN HIS TWO SELVES.
THAT IS THE VERY REASON WHY HE REACTED TO THE HINTS TOWARDS YOU CHANGING YOUR NAME BY MEETING YOU HERE TODAY.


BUT EVEN THEN ...
TO BE HONEST, I DID NOT GET A SECOND OF SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
I WAS SO AFRAID OF MEETING YOU...

IF MAYBE BY MEETING YOU I'D END UP DYING... I WAS SO TERRIBLY AFRAID OF THAT...
YET HERE I AM, TALKING TO YOU LIKE ANY PERSON WOULD...
THAT IS WHY I REGRET IT SO ...
IF I HAD MET WITH YOU EVEN SOONER... YOU AND... ALSO THE USHIROMIYA BATTLER WITHIN ME...
THEY MIGHT HAVE GONE WITHOUT SUFFERING ON FOR ALL THESE YEARS AND MONTHS ...
THAT IS INEXCUS-ABLE...

...SO ALAS... USHIROMIYA BATTLER REALLY DID "DIE" ON THAT DAY...
WAS THAT THE REASON WHY BERNKASTEL KEPT REPEATING THE RED TRUTH THAT MY BROTHER HAD DIED OVER AND OVER...
BECAUSE I WISH FOR YOUR [illegible]
TOGETHER WITH ALL THE [illegible]
...
NGH
...

十八
I PICKED UP A SINGLE MESSAGE BOTTLE ...
AND TOHYA REGAINED THE MEMORY THAT HE HAD LOST.
AT THE TIME WHEN THE ROKKENJIMA MYSTERY WAS GETTING POPULAR ON THE INTERNET ...
AFTER READING IT, TOHYA WAS TORMENTED FOR A LONG TIME, BY THE FEELING OF GUILT RESULTING FROM THE MEMORY OF HIS OTHER SELF.
"IT WASN'T ME!"
"IT WASN'T MY FAULT!"
GOING BY HIS TESTIMONY, I WAS CONVINCED THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS THE REAL DEAL, SENT BY THE MASTERMIND.
"THAT IS NOT ME!"
"... LIVE MY CAREFREE LIFE UNTIL NOW, BY FORGETTING SUCH A TRAGEDY?"
"IT'S NOT ME!"
"IT IS ME!"
"IF BATTLER HAD TRIED, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE THEM."
"DUE TO THE FAULT OF A PERSON NAMED BATTLER A GREAT MANY PEOPLE DIED"
FOR TOHYA ROKKENJIMA WERE DAYS LIKE HELL THAT HE COULDN'T RIP HIS MIND AWAY FROM.
SO, IN THAT CASE ...
AS AN OFFERING TO THE WITCH THAT HE SAID VANISHED INTO THE SEA, AND ALSO WITH THE INTENT TO INDICT THE CULPRIT, USHIROMIYA EVA I PROPOSED TO HIM TO WRITE A FORGERY TOGETHER

* SHI (氏) IS THE 3RD PERSON SINGULAR FORM OF -SAN (さん). IT'S RARELY USED BY YOUNG ADULTS AND SHOWS A CERTAIN RESPECT FOR THE PERSON YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.
CUL-PRIT?
AT THAT TIME TOHYA FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT ...
ANY OTHER CORPSE I HAVEN'T SEEN WOULD BE...
GOING BY HIS OWN MEMORY, USHIRO-MIYA EVA WAS THE CULPRIT OF A MASS MURDER
SO AT A TIME WHEN WE HAD RELEASED SEVERAL WORKS STARTING WITH BANQUET ...
USHIROMIYA EVA-SHI* HERSELF CAME ASKING FOR US
HUH?
EVA OBA -SAN ....?!?
"SO YOU REALLY DID SURVIVE, BATTLER -KUN"
LIKE YOU, SHE AS WELL UNDER-STOOD THAT ITOUIKU-KURO IS HACHIJO TOHYA...
BUT EVEN MORE CLEARLY, SHE CAME TO US CONVINCED THAT THE AUTHOR OF THOSE FORGERIES MUST HAVE BEEN A SURVIVOR OF THAT INCIDENT.
THAT WAS WHEN THE THREE OF US SHARED THE TRUTH OF THAT DAY.
HAVING IKUKO LISTEN TO IT AS AN IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTY ...
I LEARNED OF THE TRAGEDY THAT HAPPENED IN THE HIDDEN VIP-ROOM ON THAT DAY, WHILE BATTLER WAS NOT PRESENT

THEN ALL DOUBTS MELTED AWAY.

YES, I WAS FEELING UNSURE ABOUT IT FROM THE START.
GOING BY BATTLER'S MEMORY, SHE WAS NOT THE PERSON TO MURDER HER SON AND HUSBAND.

I BECAME CONVINCED THAT I HAD TO LAY BOTH THE ROKKENJIMA MYSTERY AND THE TRUTH OF THAT DAY TO REST...
WHEN I ARRIVED AT THAT POINT AND BECAME THE LEADING FORCE BEHIND THE ROKKENJIMA MYSTERY, I UNDERSTOOD WHAT PAIN I HAD INFLICTED ON MY LITTLE SISTER ...

I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO COLLECT THE KEY TO MADAM EVA'S DIARY.

WHEN A TIME CAME WHEN YOU GAINED THE DIARY, MADE YOUR WAY TO HACHIJO TOHYA, AND WITH REAL CONVICTION WANTED THE TRUTH OF THAT DAY...
I WOULD HAVE YOU DECIDE ON YOUR OWN WHETHER YOU WANTED TO KNOW IT OR NOT.
THE REST IS AS YOU KNOW IT AS WELL.
EVA OBA -SAN ...
I...
CAUSED HORRIBLE PAIN TO YOU BY BECOMING A FORGERY AUTHOR AFTER THE INCIDENT.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME... ONE MORE THING...
KOTO-BUKI -SEN-SEI...
EVEN THOUGH I AM YOUR BROTHER, I LEFT MY LITTLE SISTER ALL ALONE WITHOUT EVEN MEETING HER...

THANK YOU, ONII-SAN...
THANK YOU FOR GOING THROUGH WITH MEETING ME TODAY...
THE WITCH OF ROKKENJIMA WAS SURELY ALSO PLEASED WITH YOUR FORGERIES AND IS AT REST NOW...
...
THANKS TO EVA OBA-SAN AND THOSE TWO HERE, I WAS ABLE TO STEP INTO MY FUTURE AND ROKKENJIMA HAS BEEN PUT TO REST...
PLEASE, SOME-HOW... FORGIVE ME...
BUT THIS MAN KEPT ON AND ON... TORMENTING HIMSELF UNTIL TODAY...
PLEASE RAISE YOUR HEAD, TOHYA -SENSEI...
IT IS ALRIGHT... BECAUSE I WAS NOT AT ALL ALONE...
YOU HAVE BEEN TORMENTING YOURSELF QUITE A LOT... FOR ME IT WAS ENOUGH THAT YOU CAME OUT HERE TO MEET ME TODAY...

I AM GLAD THAT WE COULD MEET... KOTOBUKI -SENSEI.
NOT AT ALL ...
IT HAS GOTTEN QUITE LATE ALREADY...
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY SO LONG, AFTER COMING SO FAR OUT HERE.
I AM GLAD... THAT I COULD HEAR SOME STORIES OF THE PAST.
THANK YOU, TOHYA -SENSEI ...
WELL ...
KOTOBUKI -SENSEI ...
IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF WE DO NOT MEET AGAIN...
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN LIFE TO LIVE, TOHYA -SENSEI...

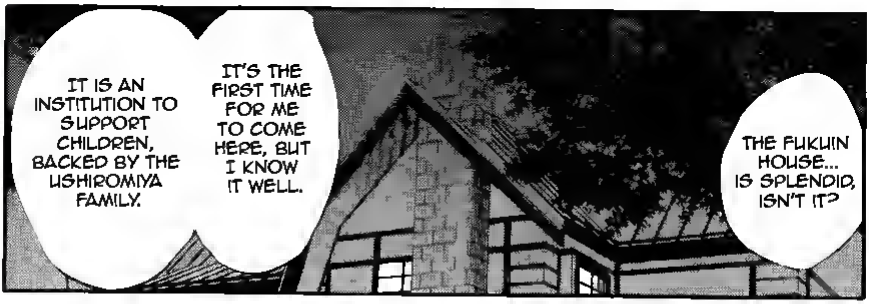
CAN WE MEET JUST ONE MORE TIME AFTER THIS?

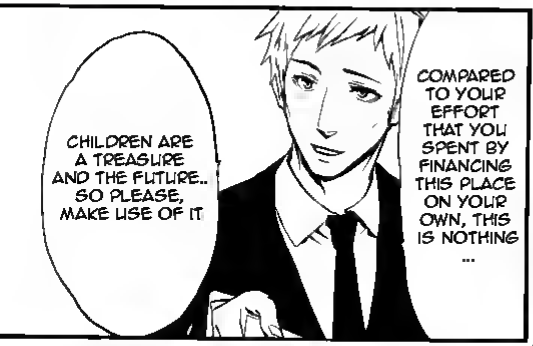
WHA ...?
I WANT TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
THAT RUMOURED ORPHANAGE THAT YOU ARE SPONSORING ...

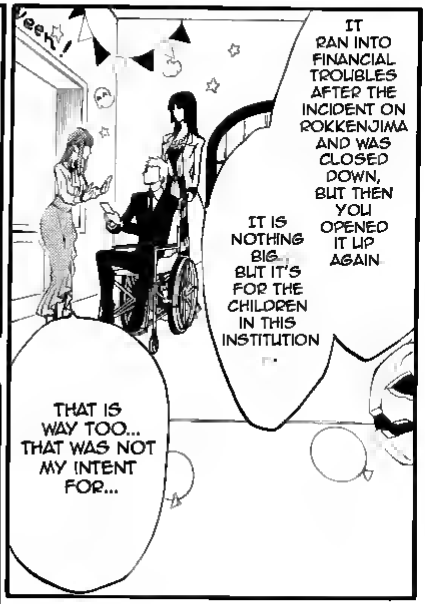
BUT ...
THAT IS...
I KNOW.
THAT IS WHY I WANT TO GO.
I UNDER-STAND.
WELL THEN...

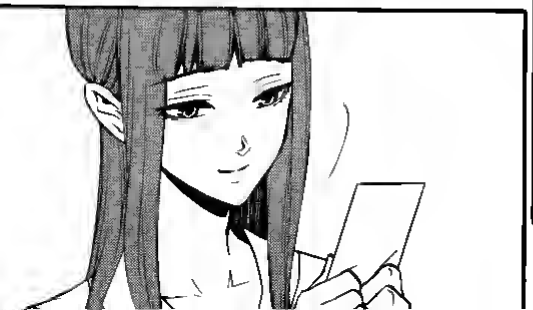
IF THIS DAY SUITS YOU, PLEASE...
HALLOWEEN PARTY
10.4

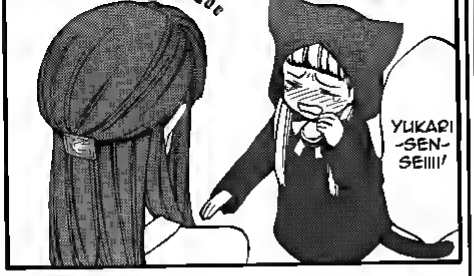
KOTO-
BUKI
-SENSEI.


IT IS AN INSTITUTION TO SUPPORT CHILDREN, BACKED BY THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME FOR ME TO COME HERE, BUT I KNOW IT WELL.
THE FUKUIN HOUSE... IS SPLENDID, ISN'T IT?

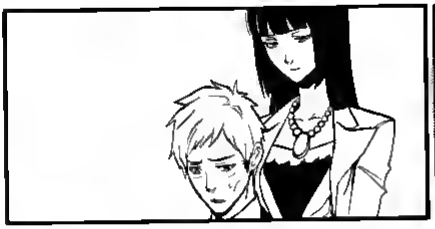

CHILDREN ARE A TREASURE AND THE FUTURE.. SO PLEASE, MAKE USE OF IT
COMPARED TO YOUR EFFORT THAT YOU SPENT BY FINANCING THIS PLACE ON YOUR OWN, THIS IS NOTHING ...

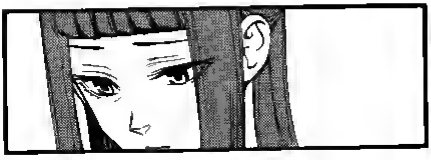

Yeek!
IT RAN INTO FINANCIAL TROUBLES AFTER THE INCIDENT ON ROKKENJIMA AND WAS CLOSED DOWN, BUT THEN YOU OPENED IT UP AGAIN
IT IS NOTHING BIG. BUT IT'S FOR THE CHILDREN IN THIS INSTITUTION.
THAT IS WAY TOO... THAT WAS NOT MY INTENT FOR...

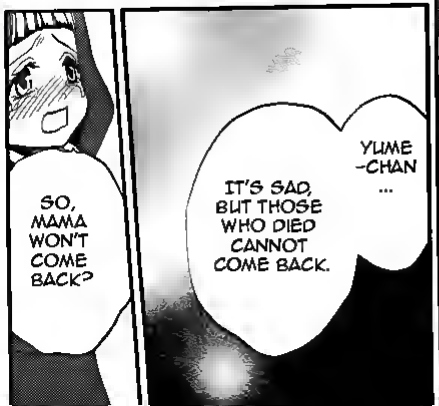



YUKARI -SEN- SEIIII!

WHAT IS IT, YUME -CHAN?






SO, MAMA WON'T COME BACK?
IT'S SAD, BUT THOSE WHO DIED CANNOT COME BACK.
YUME -CHAN ...

DOES MY MAMA REALLY NOT COME BACK TO LIFE?
TODAY IS HALLOWEEN, SO THE DEAD COME BACK TO VISIT US, DON'T THEY?
WON'T MY MAMA COME BACK TO VISIT ME TODAY...?
I WANTED TO SEE HER SO BAD...

TRY A LITTLE TO REMEMBER YOUR MOTHER ...
BUT, SINCE TODAY IS HALLOWEEN, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE DEAD IS REALLY SMALL.
GO ON, CLOSE YOUR EYES.
AND?
HOW IS YOUR MOTHER? WHAT DOES SHE SAY?
HM ...
BE GOOD AND EAT YOUR TOMA-TOES...
SHE'S A LITTLE WOR-RIED.
SO SHE WILL GIVE ME A HUG...
THAT'S RIGHT...
SEE... NOW THAT YOU FEEL YOUR MOTHER SO CLOSE YOUR CHEST IS SO WARM, RIGHT?
RIGHT...
WHAT ELSE?

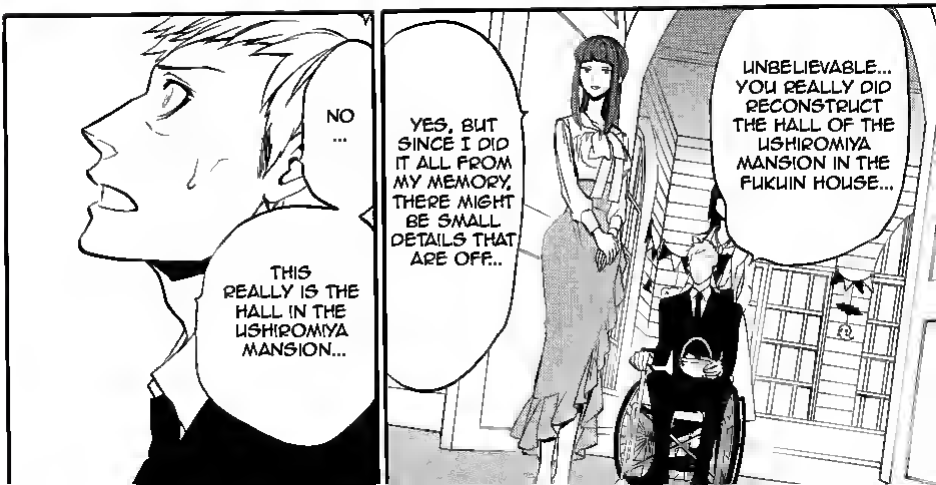
SO IT IS ALRIGHT.
YOUR MOTHER CAN'T COME BACK, BUT SHE IS ALWAYS IN HERE.
AND JUST LIKE YOU CAN FEEL YOUR MOTHER CLOSE
SHE CAN FEEL HER YUME-CHAN CLOSE AS WELL TODAY
SEND YOUR BELOVED MOTHER LOTS OF HAPPY SMILES.
LAUGH A LOT TODAY.

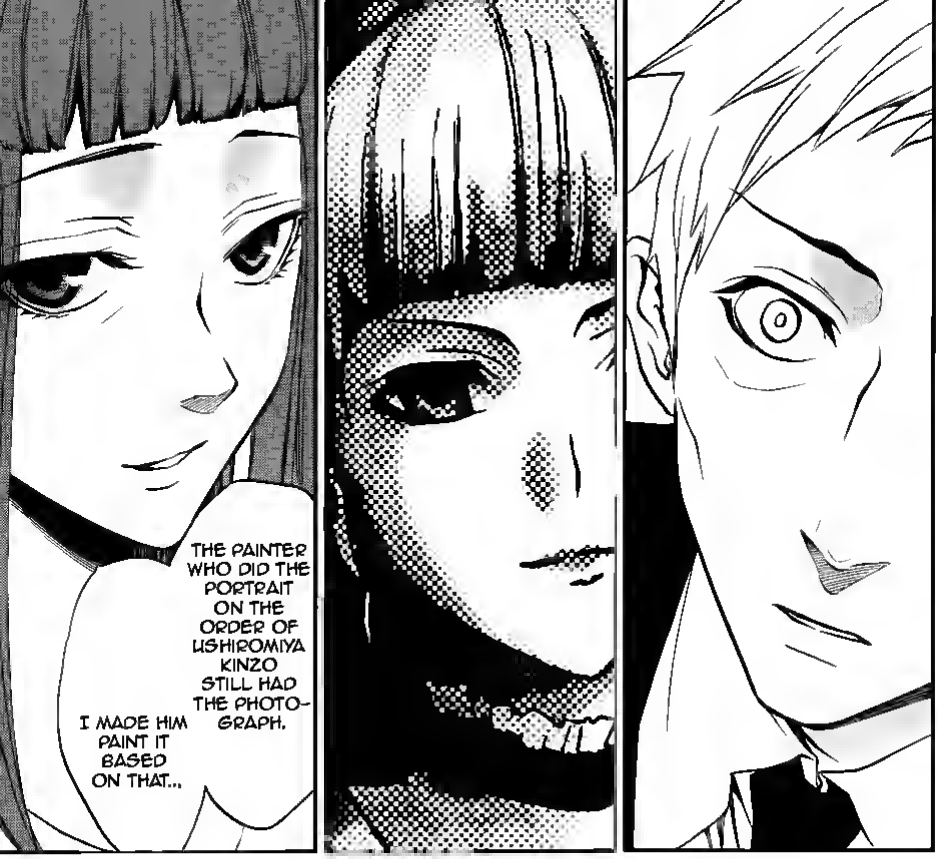
YOU ARE THE REAL THING.
TO BRING THE LIFE BACK TO A SAD CHILD'S FACE...
OKAY !!
ぱたぱたのはた
SO IT IS LIKE THE DORMITORY OF THE WITCHES IN "SAKUTARO'S GREAT ADVENTURE", RIGHT?
YOU ACTUALLY READ MY WORK? NOW THIS IS EMBAR-RASSING...
THIS IS... A WITCH SCHOOL THAT TEACHES THAT KIND OF MAGIC.
EVERYONE CAN USE MAGIC TO CREATE A FUTURE AND FIND A FRAGMENT OF HAPPINESS.

YOUR WRITING SKILL IS UNPARALLELED.
I HAVE TO BOW MY HEAD BEFORE SUCH A WARM AND FRIENDLY HEART...
WELL THEN TOHYA -SENSEI, HERE YOU ARE.
I SEE, WE ARE DOING TRICK OR TREAT.
PLEASE. TELL THE CHILDREN OF ALL YOUR WONDERFUL DREAMS.
THEY ARE ALL SO HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS.
IT HAS BEEN YEARS SINCE I WAS LAST AROUND CHILDREN ...
WHAT SHOULD I TALK TO THEM ABOUT ...

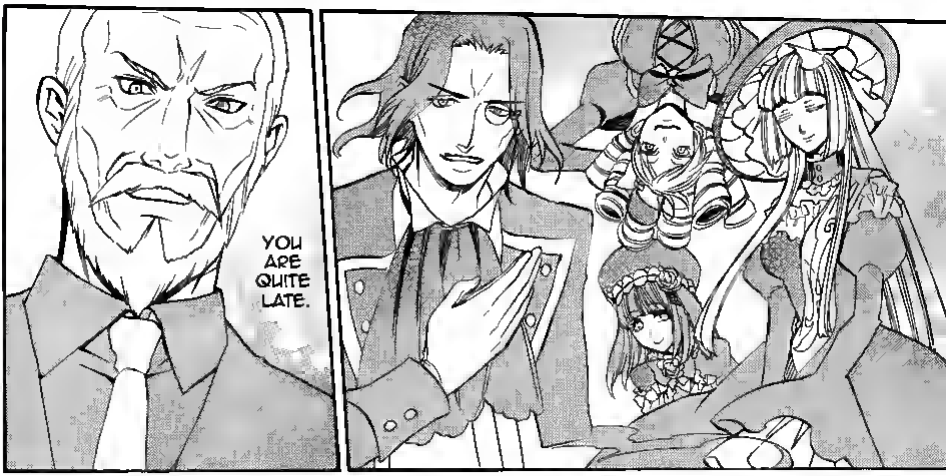
"LET'S CHOOSE A PUBLISHER THAT HANDLES MANU-SCRIPTS REALLY WELL!?
"PAY NO ATTENTION TO READER SURVEYS!"
TOHYA -SENSEI, DON'T STRAIN YOUR-SELF...
NO ...
KOTO-BUKI -SEN-SEI...
IF "IT" REALLY IS HERE ...
THEN I WANT TO HEAD STRAIGHT TOWARDS IT.

THAT... IS...


UNBELIEVABLE... YOU REALLY DID RECONSTRUCT THE HALL OF THE USHIROMIYA MANSION IN THE FUKUIN HOUSE...
YES, BUT SINCE I DID IT ALL FROM MY MEMORY, THERE MIGHT BE SMALL DETAILS THAT ARE OFF...
NO ...
THIS REALLY IS THE HALL IN THE USHIROMIYA MANSION...


THE PAINTER WHO DID THE PORTRAIT ON THE ORDER OF USHIROMIYA KINZO STILL HAD THE PHOTO-GRAPH.
I MADE HIM PAINT IT BASED ON THAT...

NOW, EVERY-ONE!
NEW GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED!

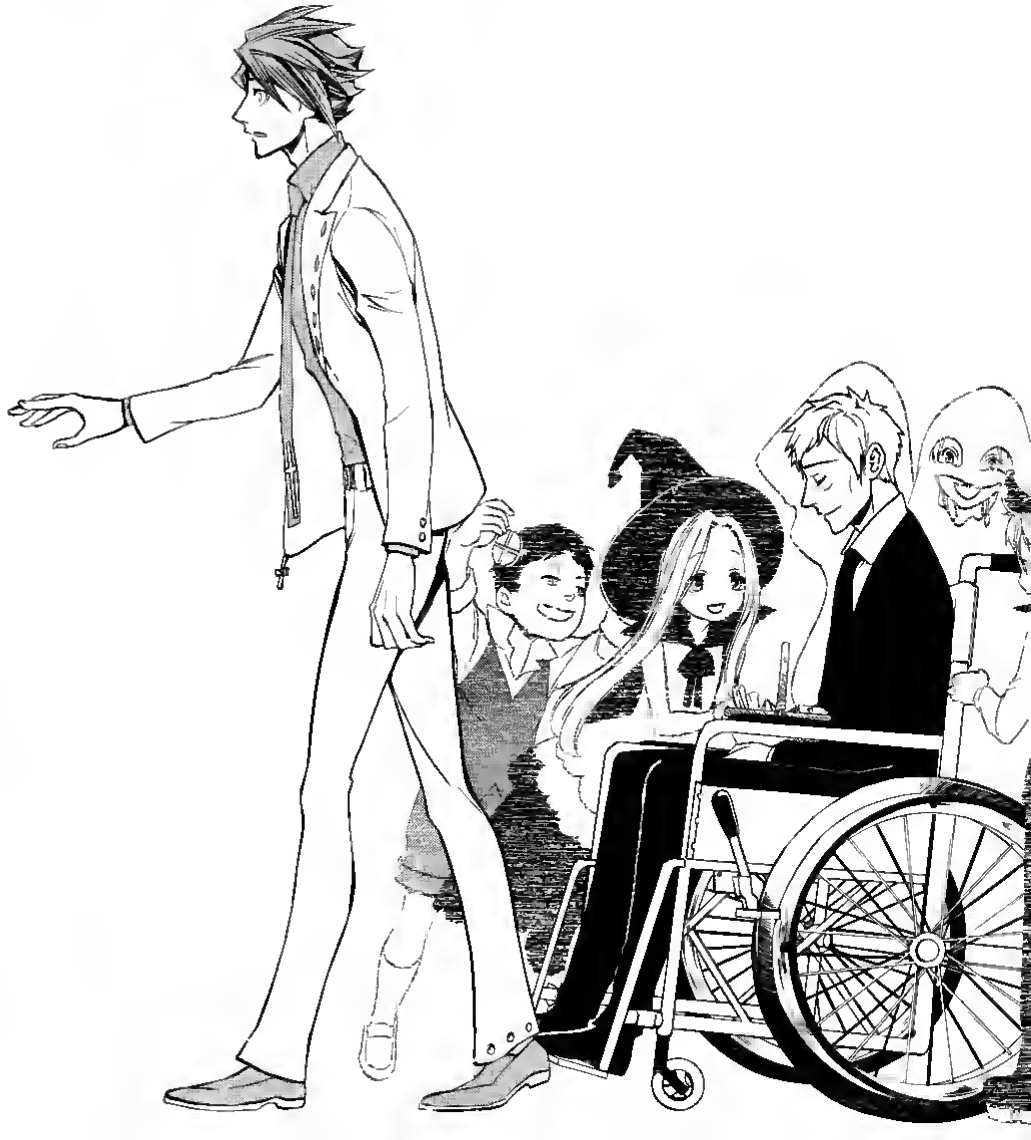

YOU ARE QUITE LATE.

YOU REALLY TOOK YOUR TIME.

FINALLY YOU MADE IT HERE.
UUUH, SLOW!

I'AM GETTING TIRED OF WAITING FOR YOU, BATTLERRRR!

HEY, ME! WHY AM I SITTING IN A WHEEL-CHAIR?
I WILL LEND YOU A HAND, SO HOP AND GET UP!

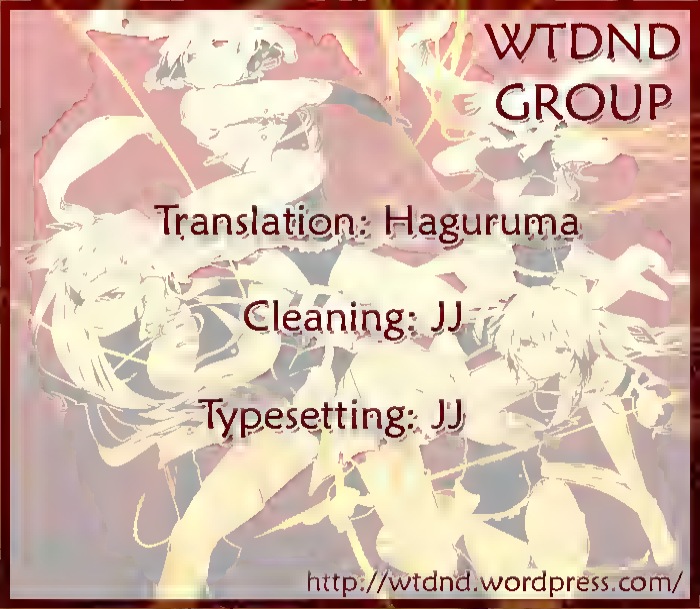


YOU ARE INCOMPETENT!
WITCHES NEVER HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART.
WHOOO...
AM I
LIAR
FARE-WELL
OF A LOVER
AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CANNOT OVERCOME!
WILL DIE?
THE E.J. GOOD-BYE.
.....
...YES.
IT TOOK A LONG TIME.

LISTEN!
WE ARE FINALLY ALL GATHERED TOGETHER HERE!
TONIGHT THE GOLDEN LAND SHALL REVIVE HERE!

AT LAST YOU CAME BACK... I WILL NEVER LET GO AGAIN.
YES, NEITHER WILL I.

WE ARE ...
TO-GETHER FOR-EVER!
END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